

FROELICK GALLERY

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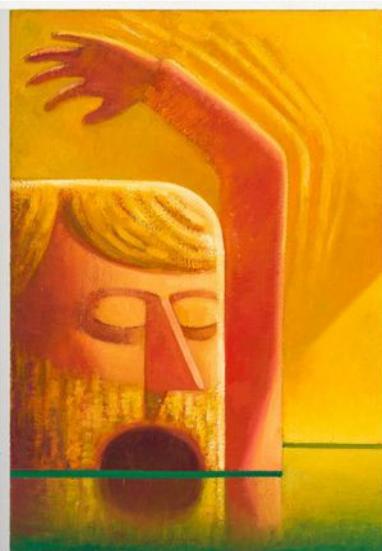
Solo Exhibit:
Nat Meade
All
Arounders

October 31st to December 2nd, 2017
First Thursday: November 2nd, 5pm – 8pm
714 NW Davis St, Portland, OR 97209

503-222-1142 info@froelickgallery.com www.froelickgallery.com

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10:30 to 5:30pm

Nat Meade & Scott Malbarun, Director, Schneider Museum, in conversation:
Saturday, November 4th, 11am



Brooklyn-based painter and Pratt Institute faculty member **Nat Meade** paints formally exploratory portraits that dissect current and traditional masculine tropes and affectations. His latest show at Froelick Gallery, ***All Arounders***, suggests in its title a luckless amateur baseball team or a weekend-warrior motorcycle gang. Meade's carved-block men sport stalactite-like beards, huge tinted sunglasses—they puff dramatic cigarette smoke clouds with faux-screen-idol hand-to-mouth gestures. Still, he imbues them with an appealing vulnerability when he hides them, bashfully, behind foliage, festoons their hairy cheeks with gemlike tears, or submerges them in rising water— perhaps the accumulation of those tears. We can almost pity their lack of self reflection.

Reduced to a rough collection of forms, Meade also employs these characters as fertile ground for compositional and formal exploration- the play of light across surfaces, the push and pull of his intense, unexpected color palette, his varied and assured brushwork are the result of an involved process of making several studies of each composition, refining, winnowing, reducing along the way- approaching completion only to scrape down to the rough surface (linen, hemp or jute here) and rebuild layer upon layer, which imbues his *All Arounders* with a complexity and gravitas which transcends their seeming cartoonishness.

Born in Massachusetts and raised in Portland, Oregon, Nat Meade received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY in 2007 and his B.F.A, Summa cum Laude, from the University of Oregon in 2001. He is Assistant to the Chair of Fine Arts at Pratt, where he is also an instructor of drawing and painting at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He recently completed the Sharpe-Walentis studio program, in which he was granted a rent-free studio in DUMBO for one year. A solo exhibition, *The Wait*, is on view at The Schneider Museum, Southern Oregon University, through December 16.

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